In order to provide adequate financial incentives to motivate the traditional Mastercraftpersons to continue to produce masterpiece, a scheme to confer 10 (ten) National Awardees every year with the 'shilp Gurus' title has been launched during the celebration of Golden Jubilee of Handicrafts Resurgence in India in the year 2002. 10 National Awardees has already been conferred the Shilp Gurus' title by the Hon'ble President of India on 15th November, 2002. This is the highest award given to the mastercraftpersons in the country.

Similarly Mastercraftpersons who are recipients of National awards, Merit Certificate or State Awardees in handicrafts are eligible for receipt of grant of financial assistance under indigent circumstances in the form of pension.

Supply of duty-free Yarn to weavers of Handloom Industries in the Country

2936. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be please to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme by the Government to supply duty-free yarn to weavers of Handloom Industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of policies including financial aspects and various schemes introduced as on this day by Government for development of Handloom Industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India is introducing a Scheme *viz.* Scheme for Reimbursement of CENVAT on Hank Yarn for supply of cotton and cellulosic spun yarn packed in plain reel hank form to the handloom weavers and their organizations at the price net of CENVAT. The Scheme will be implemented by National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC), and by the State Government through State Apex handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies, State Handloom Development primary

Handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies, which are in existence for at least 3 years and whose annual turnover is at least Rs. 10 lakh per year and approved by the Director In-charge of handlooms for this purpose.

Under the Scheme, Government of India will reimburse the actual excise duty including additional excise duty levied under the Additional Duties of Excise (Textile & Textiles Articles) Act, 1978 paid by implementing agency while purchasing the yarn from the spinning mills plus 0.5% of the value of the yarn net of CENVAT towards administrative charges.

(c) The Government of India has already announced the national Textile Policy, 2000. The policy relating to the handloom sector covers (i) upgradation of skills for value added items (ii) continuation of welfare measures for a better working environment and the social security of the weavers (iii) effective support systems in research and development, design inputs, skill upgradation and market linkages (iv) review of the implementation of the Hank Yarn Obligation Order and the Reservation Orders issued under the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985 keeping in mind the needs of the handloom weavers; (v) revamping of Weavers Service Centres in consonance with the contemporary trends, and using Information Technology for efficacy, their activities suitably dovetailed with activities of centres of design excellence like NIFT and NID and (vi) streamlining the present package of scheme for production of value added fabrics; innovative market-oriented schemes will be introduced and joint ventures encouraged both at the domestic and international levels.

The Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms has formulated the following Schemes for implementation during Tenth Plan for the devel;opment of handloom industry and welfare of handloom weavers:

(1) Design Development and Training Programme

(2) Marketing Promotion Programme

(3) Mill Gate Price Scheme

(4) Deen Dayal Hathkargha Prothsahan Yojana

(5) Work-shed-cum-Housing Scheme

(6) Weavers Welfare Scheme

(7) Handloom Export Scheme

(8) Implementation of Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985.

For implementation of the above Schemes an allocation of Rs. 156.77 crore has been made for the year 2003-04.

12.00 Noon

STATEMENT BY MINISTER CORRECTING ANSWER TO QUESTION

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) correcting the Hindi version of the reply given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th March, 2003 to Unstarred Question 1452 regarding "Proposed Amendment in Code of Criminal Procedure". [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7276/03]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report and Accounts (2001-2002) of the Aeronautical Development Agency, Bangalore and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(a) Seventeenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Aeronautical Development Agency, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above report.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 7752/03]

I. **Report and Accounts (2001-2002) of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited, New Delhi and related papers.**